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(54) Antenna for transponder and transponder

Antenne für einen Transponder und ein Transponder

Antenne pour un transpondeur et un transpondeur

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Description

The present invention relates to antennas for transponders and to transponders. In particular, the present invention relates to an antenna for a transponder and a transponder operating at a frequency of 40 kHz to 200 kHz, or at a frequency exceeding 100 kHz, which is suitable for the usage of such an apparatus carried on a person, such as ID cards, commuter passes and coupon tickets.

Antennas which have used include those of a winding on a ferrite magnetic core, and those of a wound conductor without a magnetic core. In antennas used in alternate magnetic fields, the use of the magnetic core comprising layered thin plates prevents a loss due to eddy currents (i.e. an eddy current loss).

When a prior art antenna is used for the transponders carried on persons for ID cards, commuter passes and coupon tickets, the following problems arise.

Because ferrite is hard, not flexible, and thus fragile on bending, it is not suitable for being carried in a pocket.

Although a coil not having a magnetic core can be thinned by forming a concentric spiral coil 1 as shown in FIG. 2A, the coil characteristics are weakened, disturbed, interfered or deteriorated when a coin 10 or the aluminum foil in a cigarette case in a person's pocket overlaps perpendicularly with the axis of a transponder 2 having such a coil 1 as shown in FIG. 2B. Such a characteristic deterioration can be prevented with significant inconvenience by taking out the transponder from the pocket when using it. Further, such a use may cause the deterioration of characteristics due to attached water drops or snow.

When a metallic magnetic core is used with an alternate current, the eddy current loss has been prevented by layering thin magnetic plates having high electric resistance while insulating the plates from each other. Such an effect is more enhanced with a higher electric resistance and a smaller thickness of the magnetic material. However, already at a frequency exceeding a few dozen kHz, and in particular, more than a hundred kHz, a significant loss is caused and thus it is not suitable for use even if a material is used which has an extremely high electric resistance and an extremely small thickness and is industrially available, i.e. an amorphous metal having an electric resistance of 137 $\mu\Omega\text{cm}$ and a thickness of 23 μ .

US-A-5 396 698 discloses an antenna having the features of the preamble of claim 1. In particular there is disclosed an antenna comprising a flat rectangular magnetic core composed of a composite material and a coil wound on that magnetic core. There is further described to use thin layers of amorphous metallic glass for the magnetic core.

From EP-A-0 302 355 and patent abstract of Japan vol. 016, no 324 (e-1234), 15 July 1992 & JP-A-04 094 502 there are known magnetic cores made of composite material comprising magnetically soft flakes and a synthetic resin.

From US-A-5 408 243 there is known a method an apparatus for producing a flat flexible antenna using magnetically soft flakes and a synthetic resin as magnetic core.

From Rothammel Karl "Antennenbuch", 1991, Franckh-Kosmos Verlag, Stuttgart, page 389 there are known loop type air antennas.

It is an object of the present invention to provide an antenna for a transponder and a transponder making use of such an antenna, which is thin and flexible, has a small loss including eddy current loss at high frequency and is essentially not affected by a coin or an aluminium foil in a cigarette case of other ferrous or non-ferrous metal materials possibly carried close to the transponder like keys of cars or house doors.

According to the invention the above object is solved by an antenna having the features of claim 1 and by a transponder having the features of claim 21, respectively. Preferred embodiments of the inventive antenna and transponder are defined in the respective subclaims.

An antenna for a transponder in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention comprises a magnetic core composed of layered rectangular metallic thin plates, and a coil wound parallel to the longer side of the magnetic core.

Because the magnetic core in such an antenna for a transponder is composed of layered metallic thin plates, the antenna is thin and flexible, and has a decreased high-frequency loss. By winding a coil in the longer side direction of the magnetic core in a preferred embodiment, the loss is even more significantly decreased at high frequency regions over a few dozen kHz.

When the antenna is mounted in a transponder, the magnetic flux flows parallel to the transponder's plane. Thus, the magnetic flux is essentially not affected by a coin or an aluminum foil or other ferrous or non-ferrous metal materials like used for keys of cars or house doors overlapping in the transponder's plane.

A transponder in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention has two plate antennas each comprising a magnetic core composed of layered metallic thin plates around which a conductor coil is wound, and an air-core antenna composed of a spirally wound conductor.

An antenna for a transponder in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention comprises a plate magnetic core composed of a composite material of magnetically soft flakes and a synthetic resin, and a coil wound around such a magnetic core.

Such an antenna for a transponder is thin and flexible and has a decreased high-frequency loss, because the

magnetic core is composed of a composite material of a magnetically soft flake and a synthetic resin.

When the antenna for the transponder is fabricated in a transponder, the magnetic flux flows parallel to the transponder plate or plane. Thus, the magnetic flux is nearly not affected by a coin or an aluminum foil or similar material overlapping the transponder plate.

5 A transponder in accordance with a fourth embodiment of the present invention comprises two plate antennas in accordance with the third embodiment set forth above, and an air-core antenna composed of a spirally wound conductor.

10 FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating an antenna in accordance with features of an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2A is a plan view illustrating a transponder having a prior art antenna and FIG. 2B is a perspective view of the same;

FIGs. 3A and 3B are plan views illustrating a magnetic core in accordance with features of an embodiment of the present invention;

15 FIG. 4A is a plan view illustrating a transponder in accordance with features of an embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 4B is a side view of the same;

FIG. 5A is a plan view illustrating a transponder also usable as a magnetic card and FIG. 5B is a side view of the same;

20 FIGs. 6A and 6B are representative views illustrating the length, width and thickness of coils in Example (6A) and Comparative Example (6B); and

FIG. 7A is a plan view illustrating a transponder in accordance with features of an embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 7B is a side view of the same.

An antenna for a transponder in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention will now be explained.

25 FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating a preferred feature of an antenna 3 in accordance with the first embodiment of the present invention.

This antenna 3 comprises a magnetic core 4 composed of layered metallic thin plates, and a coil 5 wound thereon.

30 Preferred materials for the metallic thin plates are magnetically soft materials, and in particular, of having excellent magnetic properties and a large specific resistance, i.e. a large resistivity. Examples of such materials include amorphous magnetic materials, such as METAGLAS 2714A (Co-Fe-Ni-B-Si type), 2605S2 (Fe-B-Si type), 2605SC (Fe-B-Si-C type) and 2876MB (Fe-Ni-Mo-B type) made by Allied Signal; iron-nickel alloys, such as JIS 2531 PB PC; silicon steels, such as JIS 2553 Z6H and FC6HL G09 S09; and the like. Among them, Co-Fe-Ni-B-Si-type amorphous magnetic material is more preferred, and the preferable thickness of the metallic thin plates range from 20 to 50 μ m.

35 The number of the layered metallic thin plates is preferably 3 to 16. Although only metallic thin plates can be layered without inserting other material, metallic thin plates which are insulated by coating or oxidizing their surfaces also may be layered. Further, in order to secure the insulation between the metallic thin plates, an insulating material, such as paper and polymeric films may be inserted between the metallic thin plates in the layering.

The ratio B/A of the side length B to the side length A in the magnetic core 4 composed of layered metallic thin plates is 1 or, preferably less than 1 and, more preferably 0.4 to 1.0, and even more preferably 0.5 to 0.9.

40 The conductor wound as the coil 5 is preferably 100 to 200 μ m in diameter. When the coil 5 is formed, the conductor is wound around the magnetic core 4 in the direction parallel to its long side. The preferred thickness of the antenna 3 after the coil is wound around it is 0.4 mm or less, and more preferred 0.3 mm or less.

45 The cross-section of the conductor of the coil 5 is typically circular, and is preferably rectangular for the more compact coil. Suitable materials for the conductor are pure copper for general use, chromium copper for a use requiring particular strength for higher vibration resistance, highly conductive silver for more compact size, corrosion resistive gold for the use requiring high reliability, and aluminum for lighter weight.

50 The magnetic core of the antenna in accordance with the present invention is flexible to prevent breakage due to bending. Further, because the antenna is thin and the coil axis can be set to be parallel to the transponder plate, its characteristics are nearly not affected or deteriorated when a coin or aluminum foil or other ferrous or non-ferrous metal materials overlaps with the transponder. Thus, the antenna has a small loss at high frequencies. The term loss used in the specification includes eddy current loss.

55 In particular, when the corners of the magnetic core are cut or rounded as shown in FIGs. 3A and 3B on examples described later, the loss can be further suppressed at high frequencies. The loss in the antenna in accordance with the present invention, of which the coil is wound around the magnetic core composed of layered metallic thin plates in the longer side direction, is significantly lowered at a high frequency region of a few dozen kHz, and the most of the loss is generated at the corners of the magnetic core. Thus, the corners are cut or rounded like the magnetic core 3A shown in FIG. 3A or the magnetic core 3B shown in FIG. 3B, respectively, to decrease the loss.

When the corners are cut, the length of the cut side (a in FIG. 3A) is generally 2 to 12 mm, preferably 3 to 10 mm,

and more preferably 4 to 8 mm. When the corners are rounded, the curvature radius R is generally 2 to 15 mm, preferably 3 to 12 mm, and more preferably 4 to 10 mm.

Next, a transponder of a second embodiment using the antenna in accordance with the present invention will be explained.

5 The transponder in accordance with the present invention is produced by embedding the antenna 3 for transponder as well as a circuit chip into a synthetic resin. The preferred size of the transponder is 54 mm in width and 86 mm in length similar to credit cards generally used. A size larger than this is too bulky to carry, whereas a size less than this often causes the loss, the both resulting in inconvenient handling. The preferred thickness of the transponder is 0.76 mm or less similar to credit cards.

10 As shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B, plate transponder 8 in accordance with the present invention is provided with two thin plate antennas 6, 7, while their coil axes (or antenna axes) are perpendicular to each other, and an air-core antenna composed of an air-core spiral coil 9 is provided in the transponder 8, so that the axis is perpendicular to the transponder plate. Axes of the antennas 6, 7 and of the antenna composed of the coil 9 are preferably directed to three directions perpendicular to each other. These antennas have chip circuits 11.

15 When a transponder is used as an ID card or a commuter pass to be carried in a pocket and effective on an automated wicket, such a transponder must respond to radio waves from any directions, because there is no correlation of the directions between the antenna of an interrogating transmitter, interrogator or receiver and the transponder defined. Although a plate transponder having two plate antennas with their axes crossing in the plane of said plate can respond to all the directions parallel to the plate, such a transponder cannot respond to directions in the plane perpendicular to the plate. The above described spiral antenna cannot respond to directions parallel to the plate.

20 The inventive plate transponder shown in FIGs. 4A and 4B can respond to radio waves of an interrogator from all directions, regardless of the direction of the transponder to the direction of said radio waves relation; the antenna 7 responds to radio waves in the X direction, the antenna 6 responds to radio waves in the Y direction, and the air-core antenna (coil) 9 responds to radio waves in the Z direction.

25 The transponder 12 shown in FIGs. 5A and 5B may be provided with a magnetic recording layer, such as a magnetic stripe 13, at the surface, and the antenna 14 in accordance with the present invention. The transponder can be used in both the contact and non-contact states. Any printing 15 may be applied on the surface without magnetic recording for the visual judgement. Any embossment can be formed at the sections other than the antenna, circuit and magnetic recording layer for clearer printing and improving the durability against rewrite and wear. The transponder 12 has a circuit chip 16.

An antenna for a transponder in accordance with a third embodiment will now be explained.

Examples of magnetically soft materials used for the flakes of a composite material suitable as a magnetic core for the antenna of the transponder in accordance with a third embodiment of the present invention include pure iron, silicon steel, permalloys (Fe-Ni alloy), iron/cobalt amorphous alloys, and in particular, cobalt amorphous alloys (Co-Fe-Ni-B-Si). Amorphous alloys have excellent highfrequency characteristics, and are readily formed to flakes by striking to quench the molten drops from the molten alloy flow on the copper surface cooled with water.

35 The thickness of the flakes is preferably 30 μm or less, and more preferably 10 μm or less, to prevent the effect of eddy currents, i.e. eddy current loss. A larger flake diameter can increase the permeability of the composite material and decrease the magnetic core size. However, an excessively large diameter of the flakes barely homogenizes the magnetic core material. Accordingly, the flake diameter ranges 50 to 2,000 μm , and preferably 100 to 1,000 μm .

40 Examples of synthetic resins include thermoset resins, e.g. epoxy resins, phenol resins, urea resins, unsaturated polyester resins, diacrylphthalate resins, melamine resins, silicone resins, and polyurethane resins; and thermoplastic resins, e.g. polyethylene resins, polypropylene resins, vinyl chloride resins, fluoroplastics, methacrylate resins, polystyrene resins, AS resins, ABS resins, ABA resins, polycarbonate resins, polyacetal resins, and polyimide resins.

45 The flexibility of the composite material increases and the shaping characteristics improve with the increased synthetic resin content in the composite material. When the resin content is too small, the strength of the composite material decreases. On the other hand, an excessive synthetic resin content causes a decrease in permeability. Accordingly, the preferred amount of the synthetic resin is 3 to 50 weight%, and more preferably 10 to 40 weight% of the composite material.

50 Usable molding methods include injection molding, compression molding, rolling, and doctor blade shaping. A composite material having excellent magnetic characteristics can be obtained by compression molding, rolling or doctor blade shaping, since the flake plane is oriented to the plane of the composite material. The size suitable to carrying out such a method is 0.3 to 2 mm in thickness, 100 mm or less in width and length, and in particular, 0.3 to 1 mm in thickness, 10 to 25 mm in width, and 60 to 80 mm in length.

55 When the conductor forming the coil is too thick, the antenna becomes too thick, whereas the excessively thin conductor causes an increase in resistance. Thus, the diameter of the conductor preferably ranges from 100 to 200 μm .

It is preferred that the coil is wound perpendicular to the longer side of the antenna, in other words, the coil axis is parallel to the longer side.

The antenna for the transponder in accordance with the present invention exhibits excellent effects in that the antenna is thin and flexible, the loss is low at high frequencies over 100 kHz, and the antenna is less affected by a coin or aluminum foil package or other ferrous or non-ferrous metal materials.

A transponder using an antenna in accordance with a fourth embodiment of the present invention will now be explained in reference to FIGs. 7A and 7B.

In this transponder, two plate antennas in accordance with the third embodiment are placed perpendicular to each other, and an air-core antenna composed of a spirally wound conductor is placed, similar to the second embodiment set forth above, because the direction of the transponder antenna is not always oriented in the direction of the magnetic flux of the interrogating machine when the transponder in the pocket passes through an automatic wicket. As shown in FIGs. 7A and 7B, two thin plate antennas 26, 27 in accordance with the present invention are provided in the plate transponder 28 with their axes crossing in the plane of the plate transponder and an air-core antenna composed of an air-core spiral coil 29 is provided in the plate transponder 28 so that the axis of the antenna is perpendicular to the plate of the transponder. Axes of the antennas 26, 27 and of the antenna composed of the coil 29 are preferably directed to three directions perpendicular to each other. These antennas have chip circuits 31.

When the transponder is used as an ID card or a commuter pass to be carried in the pocket and effective on an automatic wicket, there is no correlation between the direction of the interrogator antenna and the direction of the transponder defined. Thus, the transponder must respond to radio waves from all the directions. A transponder, which has two plate antennas crossing each other, can respond to the direction parallel to the plate, but cannot respond to the direction perpendicular to the plate. On the other hand, the plate transponder shown in FIGs. 7A and 7B can respond to waves from all the directions, regardless of the direction of the transponder; the antenna 27 responds to radio waves in the X direction, the antenna 26 responds to radio waves in the Y direction, and the air-core antenna (coil) 29 responds to radio waves in the Z direction.

Experiment 1

A sheet composed of Allied Signal METAGLAS 2714A having a width of 50 mm and a thickness 25 μ m was used as a magnetic core material. The sheet was cut into a size shown in Table 1, was heated at 250°C for 10 min. in air, and quenched. A magnetic core was produced by layering a few sheets so as to reach the thickness shown in Table 1. An insulation conductor having a diameter of 0.15 mm was wound around the magnetic core so that the inductance L of the coil is approximately 3 mH. The conductor was wound in the direction parallel to the longer side of the magnetic core in Examples, and in the direction parallel to the shorter side of the magnetic core in Comparative Examples.

The resistance of each antenna due to the magnetic core was evaluated by the following equation from the resistance R obtained from Yokogawa-Hewlett-Packard LCR meter 4284A:

$$R_1 = R - R_2$$

wherein R₁ represents a resistance due to the magnetic core, R represents an observed resistance, and R₂ represents a direct current resistance of the coil.

Results are shown in Table 1. Table 1 evidently demonstrates that the resistance significantly decreases by winding the coil in the direction parallel to the longer side of the magnetic core.

As shown in FIGs. 6A and 6B, the magnetic core size perpendicular to coil axis is represented by A, the magnetic core size parallel to the coil axis is represented by B, and the magnetic core size perpendicular to the plane AB is represented by C.

(Table 1)

	Magnetic Core Size				Resistance due to Magnetic Core R_i (Ω)									
	A (mm)	B (mm)	C (μ)	B/A	30 kHz	40 kHz	50 kHz	60 kHz	80 kHz	100 kHz	120 kHz	150 kHz	250 kHz	
Examples	50	15	300	0.3	1.5	2.1	3.8	5.9	10.3	16.5	24.4	40.8	84.3	
	50	20	300	0.4	2.3	4.1	5.8	8.5	14.7	23.0	26.4	48.2	98.0	
	50	25	75	0.5	2.3	4.3	6.7	9.7	17.2	26.0	38.9	60.8	108	
	50	25	150	0.5	2.4	4.8	7.3	10.1	17.5	26.8	37.8	56.2	106	
	50	25	300	0.5	2.7	4.7	6.6	9.2	15.8	24.1	33.8	52.3	96.3	
	50	25	600	0.5	2.7	4.8	6.4	8.6	14.9	23.5	32.4	49.6	92.3	
	50	35	300	0.7	5.9	10.4	16	23.3	42.8	70.9	114	224	840	
	50	50	300	1.0	9.9	17.7	28.2	41.6	77.5	134	224	480	2500	
Comparative Examples	50	75	300	1.5	10.8	25.1	38.0	80.7	103	162	281	816	4250	
	50	100	300	2.0	12.7	28.8	48.9	72.5	115	194	335	910	5650	
	50	200	300	4.0	16.6	30.1	59.7	94.3	140	253	440	1030	7400	

Remarks

A: Magnetic core size perpendicular to coil axis

B: Magnetic core size parallel to coil axis

C: Thickness

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Experiment 2

A sheet composed of Allied Signal METAGLAS 2714A having a width of 50 mm and a thickness 25 μ m was cut into 50 mm by 25 mm. Four corners of the cut sheet in Example A were cut as shown in FIG. 3A ($a = 6$ mm). Four corners of the cut sheet in Example B were rounded as shown in FIG. 3B so as to form arcs ($R = 6$ mm). Each corner in Example C was maintained to right angle. Sheets were heated at 250°C for 10 min. in air, and quenched. A magnetic core of each Example was produced by layering three sheets. An insulation conductor having a diameter of 0.15 mm was wound up twice by each 85 turns in the direction parallel to the longer side of the magnetic core to form an antenna. The direct current resistance of the coil was 20.4 Ω .

The resistance of each antenna due to the magnetic core was evaluated similar to Experiment 1. Results are shown in Table 2. Table 2 demonstrates that the resistance significantly decreases by eliminating the corners of the magnetic core.

(Table 2)

Frequency (kHz)	Example A Core with Cut Corner (Ω)	Example B Core with Rounded Corner (Ω)	Example C Core without Corner Treatment (Ω)
30	2.1	2.2	2.7
40	3.7	3.8	4.4
50	3.5	3.7	4.8
60	5.7	6.0	7.8
80	13.9	14.5	17.6
100	23.7	24.7	29.4
120	37.7	39.2	46.6
150	54.1	56	65.8
200	108.6	112.3	134.1

Experiments 3

(Example)

A sheet composed of Allied Signal METAGLAS 2714A having a width of 50 mm and a thickness 0.025 mm was cut into 50 mm by 25 mm, heated at 250°C for 10 min. in air, and quenched. A magnetic core was produced by layering three sheets. An insulation conductor having a diameter of 0.16 mm was wound up by 180 turns in the direction parallel to the longer side of the magnetic core.

(Comparative Example)

On the other hand, an antenna composed of an air-core coil of which a conductor having a diameter of 0.016 mm was wound by 400 turns.

(Measurement)

The resistance of magnetic core of each sample, of which a 10-yen coin was placed in the coil center as shown in FIG. 2B, was measured similar to Experiments 1 and 2. Results are shown in Table 3. Table 3 evidently demonstrates that the antenna of Example exhibits a smaller resistance in a practical frequency region as a transponder of 40 to 200 kHz.

(Table 3)

	Example Coil with Core Core	Comparative Example Air-core Coil Conductor
Frequency (kHz)	Diameter 0.16 mm Number of Turns 180 (Ω)	Diameter 0.16 mm Number of Turns 400 (Ω)
30	6.2	20.0

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(Table 3) (continued)

	Example Coil with Core Core	Comparative Example Air-core Coil Conductor
Frequency (kHz)	Diameter 0.16 mm Number of Turns 180 (Ω)	Diameter 0.16 mm Number of Turns 400 (Ω)
40	8.8	23.3
50	11.6	26.4
60	14.8	29.5
80	21.7	35.3
100	29.9	41.2
120	39.0	47.1
150	55.6	56.3
200	70.0	73.1

Experiment 4

(Examples)

No. 1

A magnetic core material was prepared by mixing Co-type amorphous metal flakes having an average thickness of 5 μm and an average diameter of 500 μm with an epoxy resin in an amount of 10% (the rate of the resin to the total of the flake and resin) and by compression-molding at 160°C and 200 kg/cm². The magnetic core material was cut into cut sheets having a thickness of 0.6 mm, a width of 25 mm, and a length of 80 mm. A conductor having a diameter of 0.15 mm was wound in the direction parallel to the cut sheet so that L is 3 mH.

No. 2

A magnetic core material was prepared by mixing Co-type amorphous metal flakes having an average thickness of 5 μm and an average diameter of 500 μm with an epoxy resin in an amount of 20% (the rate of the resin to the total of the flake and resin) and by compression-molding at 160°C and 200 kg/cm². The magnetic core material was cut into cut sheets having a thickness of 0.6 mm, a width of 25 mm, and a length of 80 mm. A conductor having a diameter of 0.15 mm was wound in the direction parallel to the cut sheet so that L is 3 mH.

No. 3

A magnetic core material was prepared by mixing Co-type amorphous metal flakes having an average thickness of 5 μm and an average diameter of 500 μm with an epoxy resin in an amount of 30% (the rate of the resin to the total of the flake and resin) and by compression-molding at 160°C and 200 kg/cm². The magnetic core material was cut into cut sheets having a thickness of 0.6 mm, a width of 25 mm, and a length of 80 mm. A conductor having a diameter of 0.15 mm was wound in the direction parallel to the cut sheet so that L is 3 mH.

No. 4

A magnetic core material was prepared by mixing Co-type amorphous metal flakes having an average thickness of 5 μm and an average diameter of 500 μm with an epoxy resin in an amount of 40% (the rate of the resin to the total of the flake and resin) and by compression-molding at 160°C and 200 kg/cm². The magnetic core material was cut into cut sheets having a thickness of 0.6 mm, a width of 25 mm, and a length of 80 mm. A conductor having a diameter of 0.15 mm was wound in the direction parallel to the cut sheet so that L is 3 mH.

No. 5

A magnetic core material was prepared by mixing Co-type amorphous metal flakes having an average thickness of 5 μm and an average diameter of 300 μm with an epoxy resin in an amount of 20% (the rate of the resin to the total of the flake and resin) and by compression-molding at 160°C and 200 kg/cm². The magnetic core material was cut

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into cut sheets having a thickness of 0.6 mm, a width of 25 mm, and a length of 80 mm. A conductor having a diameter of 0.15 mm was wound in the direction parallel to the cut sheet so that L is 3 mH.

No. 6

5

A magnetic core material was prepared by mixing Co-type amorphous metal flakes having an average thickness of 10 μm and an average diameter of 500 μm with an epoxy resin in an amount of 20% (the rate of the resin to the total of the flake and resin) and by compression-molding at 160°C and 200 kg/cm². The magnetic core material was cut into cut sheets having a thickness of 0.6 mm, a width of 25 mm, and a length of 80 mm. A conductor having a diameter of 0.15 mm was wound in the direction parallel to the cut sheet so that L is 3 mH.

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No. 7

A magnetic core material was prepared by mixing Co-type amorphous metal flakes having an average thickness of 5 μm and an average diameter of 500 μm with a mixture of an urethan resin and an epoxy resin in an amount of 20% (the rate of the resin mixture to the total of the flake and resin mixture) and by compression-molding at 160°C and 200 kg/cm². The magnetic core material was cut into cut sheets having a thickness of 0.6 mm, a width of 25 mm, and a length of 80 mm. A conductor having a diameter of 0.15 mm was wound in the direction parallel to the cut sheet so that L is 3 mH.

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(Comparative Examples)

No. 1

A magnetic core material was prepared by cutting Allied Chemical METAGLAS 2714A into a rectangular pieces having a width of 25 mm and a length of 50 mm. A magnetic core having a thickness of 0.3 mm was produced by layering 12 pieces. A conductor having a diameter of 0.15 mm was wound in the direction parallel to the cut sheet so that L is 3 mH.

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(Measurement)

The resistance R (loss) of each coil was measured with a Yokogawa-Hewlett-Packard LCR meter. Results are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 evidently demonstrates that the antenna in accordance with the present invention exhibits a small loss in a high frequency region over 100 kHz.

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(Table 4)

Frequency kHz	Resistance R (Ω)						
	Example No. 1	Example No. 2	Example No. 3	Example No. 4	Example No. 5	Example No. 6	Example No. 7
50	29.3	30.8	31.3	32.7	31.0	30.8	30.7
80	29.5	31.0	31.8	32.3	31.4	31.6	31.4
100	29.8	31.3	32.6	33.1	31.9	30.7	31.3
120	33.4	33.4	33.5	33.4	33.3	33.7	33.2
150	38.1	36.6	38.9	38.6	39.1	39.4	38.9
200	76.6	54.3	48.8	43.5	54.9	57.0	53.6
250	125.0	73.0	85.7	61.6	73.8	80.3	71.9
300	193.3	110.1	106.8	80.9	110.7	132.1	113.1
400	395.0	271.6	121.5	87.0	274.1	353.1	271.0
500	1243.3	914.3	583.9	413.6	913.5	1280.0	936.4
							1678.9

Claims

1. An antenna (3; 6, 7, 9; 14; 26, 27, 29) for a transponder (8; 12; 28) comprising a flat rectangular magnetic core (4) composed of a composite material and a coil (5) wound on said magnetic core (4), characterized in that said coil (5) is wound parallel to the longer side of the magnetic core, and in that the corners of said magnetic core (4) are cut (a) or rounded (b).
2. An antenna for a responder according to claim 1, wherein the composite material comprises layered rectangular metallic thin plates.
3. An antenna for a transponder according to claim 2, wherein the thin plates comprise an amorphous magnetic material.
4. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of the claims 2 to 3, wherein the thickness of the thin plates is 20 to 50 μm .
5. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of the claims 2 to 4, wherein the number of the layered thin plates is 3 to 16.
6. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of claims 2 to 5, wherein the thin plates which are insulated by oxidizing their surfaces are layered.
7. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of the claims 2 to 6, wherein the ratio B/A of the lengths of the shorter side B to the longer side A of the magnetic core (4) is 0.4 to 1.0.
8. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of the claims 2 to 7, wherein the thickness of the antenna is 0.4 mm or less.
9. An antenna for a transponder according to claim 1, wherein the composite material is composed of magnetically soft flakes and a synthetic resin.
10. An antenna for a transponder according to claim 9, wherein the magnetically soft material composing said flakes is selected from pure iron, silicon steel, a permalloy (an Fe-Ni alloy) and an iron/cobalt amorphous alloy.
11. An antenna for a transponder according to claim 10, wherein the magnetically soft material composing said flakes is a cobalt amorphous alloy (Co-Fe-Ni-B-Si).
12. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of claims 9 to 11, wherein said flake has a thickness of 30 μm or less and a diameter of 50 to 2,000 μm .
13. An antenna for a transponder according to claim 12, wherein said flakes have a thickness of 10 μm or less and a diameter of 100 to 1,000 μm .
14. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of claims 9 to 13, wherein said synthetic resin is selected from the group consisting of the thermoset resins, e.g. epoxy resins, phenol resins, urea resins, unsaturated polyester resins, diacrylphthalate resins, melamine resins, silicone resins, and polyurethane resins; and thermoplastic resins, e.g. polyethylene resins, polypropylene resins, vinyl chloride resins, fluoroplastics, methacrylate resins, polystyrene resins, AS resins, ABS resins, ABA resins, polycarbonate resins, polyacetal resins, and polyimide resins.
15. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of claims 9 to 14, wherein the amount of said synthetic resin in the composite material is 3 to 50 weight%.
16. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of claims 9 to 15, wherein said flakes comprise a cobalt base amorphous alloy, whereas said synthetic resin is an epoxy resin, and the amount of said synthetic resin in the composite material is 10 to 40 weight%.
17. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of claims 9 to 15, wherein said magnetic core has a

thickness of 0.3 to 2 mm, and a width and length of 100 mm or less, respectively.

18. An antenna for a transponder according to claim 17, wherein said magnetic core has a thickness of 0.3 to 1 mm, a width of 10 to 25 mm and a length of 60 to 80 mm.
19. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of the preceding claims, wherein the diameter of the coil conductor is 100 to 200 μm .
20. An antenna for a transponder according to one or more of the preceding claims, wherein said antenna for a transponder is suitable to carry as an ID card, a commuter pass or a coupon ticket which operates at a frequency over 100 kHz with said plate magnetic core and at a frequency between 40 kHz and 200 kHz with said magnetic core comprised of layered thin plates.
21. A plate transponder (8; 28) comprising two plate antennas (6, 7; 26, 27) composed of a wound conductor on a magnetic core (4) as defined in one or more of the preceding claims and an air-core antenna (9; 29) composed of a spirally wound conductor.
22. A transponder (8; 28) according to claim 21, wherein axes of said three antennas (6, 7, 9; 26, 27, 29) are oriented to three directions perpendicular to each other.
23. A transponder (8; 28) according to claim 21 or 22, wherein said two plate antennas (6, 7; 26, 27) are provided in the plate transponder (8; 28) so that the axes (X, Y) of said two antennas or coils are perpendicular to each other, and said air-core antenna (9; 29) composed of the spirally wound conductor is provided in the plate transponder (8; 28) so that the axis (Z) thereof is perpendicular to the transponder plate (8; 28).
24. A transponder (12) according to one or more of the claims 21 to 23, wherein a magnetic recording layer such as a magnetic strip (13) is provided on the surface of the transponder (12), and antennas (14) are provided inside the transponder (12).
25. A transponder (12) according to one or more of the claims 21 to 24, wherein a printing is provided on the surface.
26. A transponder according to one or more of the claims 21 to 25, wherein embossment is formed on the sections other than said antennas (14), circuit, and magnetic recording layer.
27. A transponder according to one or more of the claims 21 to 26, wherein said transponder (8; 12; 28) is suitable to be carried as an ID card, a commuter pass or a coupon ticket which operates at a frequency of 40 to 200 kHz.

Patentansprüche

1. Antenne (3; 6, 7, 9; 14; 26, 27, 29) für einen Transponder (8; 12; 28) umfassend einen flachen, rechteckigen, magnetischen Kern (4), der aus einem Kompositmaterial zusammengesetzt ist, und eine um diesen magnetischen Kern (4) gewickelte Spule (5), dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß die Spule (5) parallel zur längeren Seite des magnetischen Kerns gewickelt ist und daß die Ecken des magnetischen Kerns (4) geschnitten bzw. abgeschrägt (a) oder abgerundet (b) sind.
2. Antenne für einen Transponder nach Anspruch 1, worin das Kompositmaterial geschichtete, rechteckige, metallische, dünne Platten umfaßt.
3. Antenne für einen Transponder nach Anspruch 2, worin die dünnen Platten ein amorphes, magnetisches Material enthalten.
4. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 2 oder 3, worin die Dicke der dünnen Platten 20 bis 50 μm beträgt.
5. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 2 bis 4, worin die Anzahl der geschichteten, dünnen Platten 3 bis 16 beträgt.

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6. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 2 bis 5, worin die dünnen Platten, welche durch Oxidieren ihrer Oberflächen isoliert sind, geschichtet sind.
- 5 7. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 2 bis 6, worin das Verhältnis B/A der Längen der kürzeren Seite B zur längeren Seite A des magnetischen Kerns (4) 0,4 bis 1,0 beträgt.
8. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 2 bis 7, worin die Dicke der Antenne 0,4 mm oder weniger beträgt.
- 10 9. Antenne für einen Transponder nach Anspruch 1, worin das Kompositmaterial aus magnetisch weichen Flocken und einem synthetischen Harz gebildet ist.
10. Antenne für einen Transponder nach Anspruch 9, worin das magnetisch weiche Material, welches die Flocken ausbildet, aus reinem Eisen, Siliziumstahl, einem Permalloy (eine Fe-Ni Legierung) und einer amorphen Eisen/
15 Kobalt-Legierung gewählt ist.
11. Antenne für einen Transponder nach Anspruch 10, worin das die Flocken zusammensetzende magnetisch weiche Material eine amorphe Kobalt-Legierung (Co-Fe-Ni-B-Si) ist.
- 20 12. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 9 bis 11, worin die Flocke eine Dicke von 30 µm oder weniger und einen Durchmesser von 50 bis 2000 µm aufweist.
13. Antenne für einen Transponder nach Anspruch 12, worin die Flocken eine Dicke von 10 µm oder weniger und einen Durchmesser von 100 bis 1000 µm aufweisen.
- 25 14. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 9 bis 13, worin das synthetische Harz aus der Gruppe bestehend aus den thermohärtenden Harzen, z.B. Epoxyharzen, Phenolharzen, Harnstoffharzen, ungesättigten Polyesterharzen, Diacrylphthalatharzen, Melaminharzen, Siliconharzen und Polyurethanharzen; und thermoplastischen Harzen, z.B. Polyethylenharzen, Polypropylenharzen, Vinylchloridharzen, Fluoroplasten, Methacrylatharzen, Polystyrolharzen, AS-Harzen, ABS-Harzen, ABA-Harzen, Polycarbonatharzen, Polyacetalharzen und Polyimidharzen gewählt ist.
- 30 15. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 9 bis 14, worin die Menge an dem synthetischen Harz in dem Kompositmaterial 3 bis 50 Gew.-% beträgt.
- 35 16. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 9 bis 15, worin die Flocken eine amorphe Legierung auf Kobaltbasis umfassen, während das synthetische Harz ein Epoxyharz ist und die Menge an dem synthetischen Harz in dem Kompositmaterial 10 bis 40 Gew.-% beträgt.
- 40 17. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 9 bis 15, worin der magnetische Kern eine Dicke von 0,3 bis 2 mm und eine Breite bzw. Länge von 100 mm oder weniger aufweist.
18. Antenne für einen Transponder nach Anspruch 17, worin der magnetische Kern eine Dicke von 0,3 bis 1 mm, eine Breite von 10 bis 25 mm und eine Länge von 60 bis 80 mm aufweist.
- 45 19. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, worin der Durchmesser des Spulenleiters 100 bis 200 µm beträgt.
20. Antenne für einen Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, worin die Antenne für den Transponder geeignet ist, als eine ID-Karte, ein Pendler-Paß oder eine Kupon-Karte getragen zu werden, welche bei einer Frequenz über 100 kHz mit dem plattenförmigen Kern arbeitet und bei einer Frequenz zwischen 40 kHz und 200 kHz mit dem aus geschichteten, dünnen Platten bestehenden Kern arbeitet.
- 50 21. Plattentransponder (8; 28) umfassend zwei plattenförmige, aus einem auf einen magnetischen Kern (4) gewickelten Leiter zusammengesetzten Antennen (6, 7; 26, 27), wie sie in einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche definiert ist, und einer aus einem spiralförmig gewickelten Leiter zusammengesetzten Luftkern-Antenne (9, 29).
- 55 22. Transponder (8; 28) nach Anspruch 21, worin Achsen der drei Antennen (6, 7, 9; 26, 27, 29) in drei aufeinander

senkrecht stehende Richtungen orientiert sind.

23. Transponder (8; 28) nach Anspruch 21 oder 22, worin die zwei plattenförmigen Antennen (6, 7; 26, 27) in dem Plattentransponder (8; 28) so vorgesehen sind, daß die Achsen (X, Y) dieser zwei Antennen oder Spulen normal aufeinander stehen, und die aus dem spiralförmig gewickelten Leiter bestehende Luftkern-Antenne (9; 29) in dem Plattentransponder (8; 28) so vorgesehen ist, daß die Achse (Z) davon normal auf die Transponderplatte (8; 28) steht.
24. Transponder (12) nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 21 bis 23, worin eine magnetische Aufzeichnungsschicht, wie ein Magnetstreifen (13), auf der Oberfläche des Transponders (12) vorgesehen ist, und Antennen (14) im Inneren des Transponders (12) vorgesehen sind.
25. Transponder (12) nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 21 bis 24, worin auf der Oberfläche ein Druck vorgesehen ist.
26. Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 21 bis 25, worin eine Prägung auf den Abschnitten vorgesehen ist, die nicht die Antennen (14), die Schaltung und die magnetische Aufzeichnungsschicht darstellen.
27. Transponder nach einem oder mehreren der Ansprüche 21 bis 26, worin der Transponder (8; 12; 28) geeignet ist, als eine ID-Karte, ein Pender-Paß oder eine Kupon-Karte getragen zu werden, welcher bei einer Frequenz von 40 bis 200 kHz arbeitet.

Revendications

1. Antenne (3; 6, 7, 9; 14; 26, 27, 29) pour un transpondeur (8; 12; 28) comprenant un noyau magnétique rectangulaire plat (4) composé d'un matériau composite et un enroulement (5) enroulé sur ledit noyau magnétique (4), caractérisée en ce que ledit enroulement (5) est enroulé parallèlement au côté plus long du noyau magnétique, et en ce que les coins dudit noyau magnétique (4) sont coupés (a) ou arrondis (b).
2. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le matériau composite comprend des plaques métalliques minces rectangulaires disposées en couches.
3. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon la revendication 2, dans laquelle les plaques minces comprennent un matériau magnétique amorphe.
4. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 2 à 3, dans laquelle l'épaisseur des plaques minces est comprise entre 20 et 50 µm.
5. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 2 à 4, dans laquelle le nombre des plaques minces disposées en couches est compris entre 3 et 16.
6. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 2 à 5, dans laquelle les plaques minces qui sont isolées par oxydation de leurs surfaces sont disposées en couches.
7. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 2 à 6, dans laquelle le rapport B/A des longueurs B du côté plus court à la longueur A du côté plus long du noyau magnétique (4) est compris entre 0,4 et 1,0.
8. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 2 à 7, dans laquelle l'épaisseur de l'antenne est de 0,4 mm ou moins.
9. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le matériau composite se compose d'écailles magnétiquement douces et d'une résine synthétique.
10. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon la revendication 9, dans laquelle le matériau magnétiquement doux composant lesdites écailles est sélectionné parmi le fer pur, l'acier au silicium, un permalloy (alliage Fe-Ni) et un alliage amorphe fer/cobalt.

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11. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon la revendication 10, dans laquelle le matériau magnétiquement doux composant lesdites écailles est un alliage de cobalt amorphe (Co-Fe-Ni-B-Si).
- 5 12. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 9 à 11, dans laquelle ladite écaille a une épaisseur de 30 μm ou moins et un diamètre compris entre 50 et 2000 μm .
13. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon la revendication 12, dans laquelle lesdites écailles ont une épaisseur de 10 μm ou moins et un diamètre compris entre 100 et 1000 μm .
- 10 14. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 9 à 13, dans laquelle ladite résine synthétique est sélectionnée parmi le groupe composé des résines thermodurcissables, par exemple les résines époxy, les résines de phénol, les résines d'urée, les résines de polyester insaturées, les résines de phtalate de diacryle, les résines de mélamine, les résines de silicone, et les résines de polyuréthane ; et des résines thermoplastiques, par exemple les résines de polyéthylène, les résines de polypropylène, les résines de chlorure de vinyle, les matières plastiques fluorées, les résines de méthacrylate, les résines de polystyrène, les résines d'acrylonitrile-styrène, d'acrylonitrile-butadiène-styrène, les résines d'acrylonitrile-butadiène-acrylonitrile, les résines de polycarbonate, les résines de polyacétal, et les résines de polyimide.
- 15 15. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 9 à 14, dans laquelle la quantité de ladite résine synthétique dans le matériau composite est comprise entre 3 et 50 % en poids.
- 20 16. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 9 à 15, dans laquelle lesdites écailles comprennent un alliage amorphe à base de cobalt, tandis que ladite résine synthétique est une résine époxy, et la quantité de ladite résine synthétique dans le matériau composite est comprise entre 10 et 40% en poids.
- 25 17. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 9 à 15, dans laquelle ledit noyau magnétique a une épaisseur comprise entre 0,3 et 2 mm, et une largeur et une longueur de 100 mm ou moins, respectivement.
- 30 18. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon la revendication 17, dans lequel ledit noyau magnétique a une épaisseur comprise entre 0,3 et 1 mm, une largeur comprise entre 10 et 25 mm et une longueur comprise entre 60 et 80 mm.
- 35 19. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, dans laquelle le diamètre du conducteur d'enroulement est compris entre 100 et 200 μm .
- 40 20. Antenne pour un transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, dans laquelle ladite antenne pour un transpondeur est appropriée pour pouvoir être portée sous la forme d'une carte d'identification, d'un coupon de passage sur des trains de banlieue ou d'un coupon de ticket qui fonctionne à une fréquence supérieure à 100 kHz avec ledit noyau magnétique en plaque et à une fréquence comprise entre 40 kHz et 200 kHz avec ledit noyau magnétique composé de plaques minces disposées en couches.
- 45 21. Transpondeur en plaque (8 ; 28) comprenant deux antennes en plaque (6, 7 ; 26, 27) composées d'un conducteur enroulé sur un noyau magnétique (4) comme défini dans une ou plusieurs des revendications précédentes, et une antenne à noyau à air (9 ; 29) composée d'un conducteur enroulé en spirale.
- 50 22. Transpondeur (8 ; 28) selon la revendication 21, dans lequel les axes desdites trois antennes (6, 7, 9 ; 26, 27, 29) sont orientés dans trois directions perpendiculaires les unes aux autres.
- 55 23. Transpondeur (8 ; 28) selon la revendication 21 ou 22, dans lequel lesdites deux antennes en plaque (6, 7 ; 26, 27) sont disposées dans le transpondeur en plaque (8 ; 28) de telle sorte que les axes (X, Y) desdites deux antennes ou enroulements soient perpendiculaires entre eux, et ladite antenne à noyau à air (9 ; 29) composée du conducteur enroulé en spirale est disposée dans le transpondeur en plaque (8 ; 28) de telle sorte que l'axe (Z) de celle-ci soit perpendiculaire à la plaque de transpondeur (8 ; 28).
24. Transpondeur (12) selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 21 à 23, dans lequel une couche d'enregistrement magnétique telle qu'une bande magnétique (13) est disposée sur la surface du transpondeur (12), et des antennes (14) sont disposées à l'intérieur du transpondeur (12).

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25. Transpondeur (12) selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 21 à 24, dans lequel une impression est disposée sur la surface.
- 5 26. Transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 21 à 25, dans lequel une bosselure est formée sur les sections autres que lesdites antennes (14), le circuit et la couche d'enregistrement magnétique.
- 10 27. Transpondeur selon une ou plusieurs des revendications 21 à 26, dans lequel ledit transpondeur (8 ; 12 ; 28) est approprié pour être porté comme carte d'identification, comme coupon de passage sur des trains de banlieue ou comme coupon de ticket qui fonctionne à une fréquence comprise entre 40 et 200 kHz.

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FIG. 1

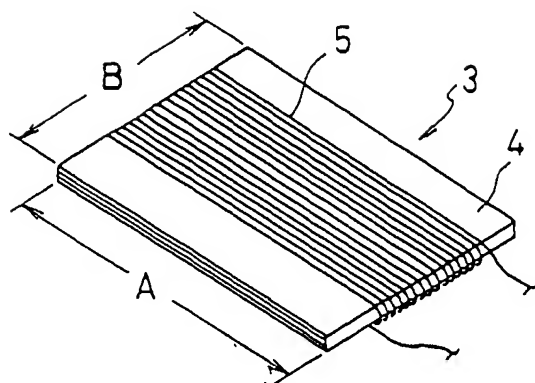


FIG. 2 A

PRIOR ART

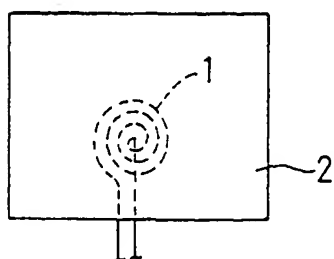


FIG. 2 B

PRIOR ART

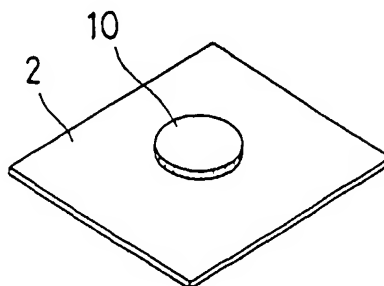


FIG. 3 A

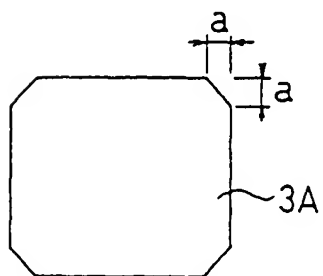


FIG. 3 B

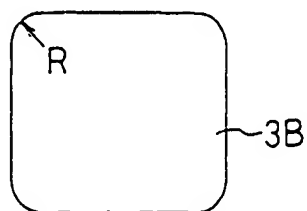


FIG. 4A

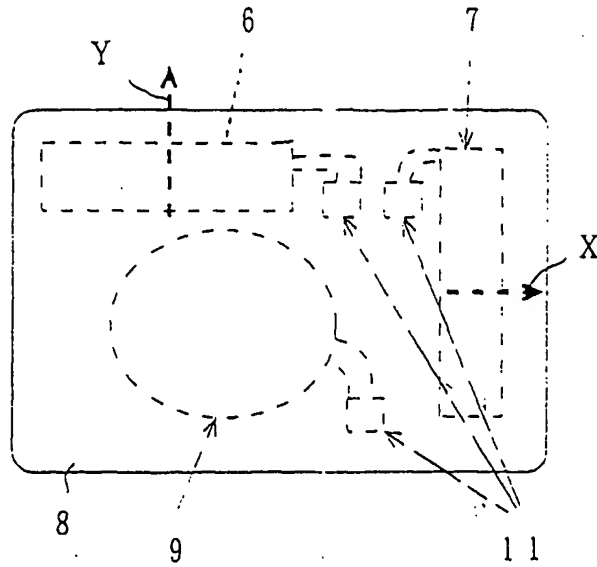
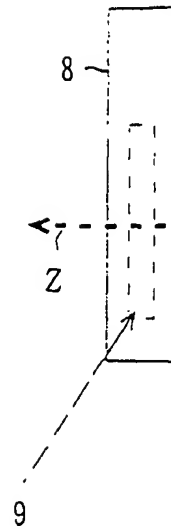


FIG. 4B



---> AXIS DIRECTION OF ANTENNA

FIG. 5A

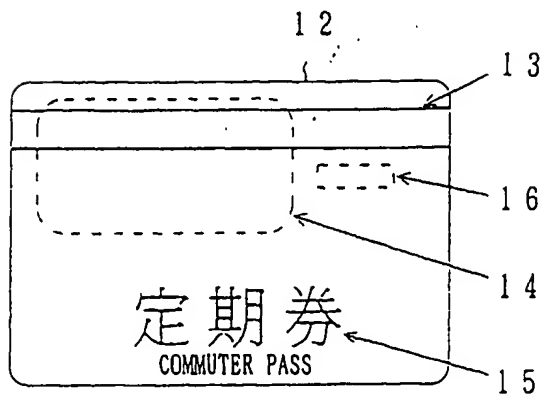


FIG. 5B

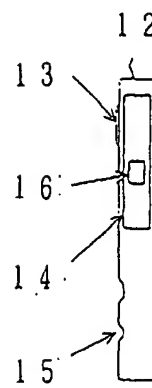


FIG. 6A

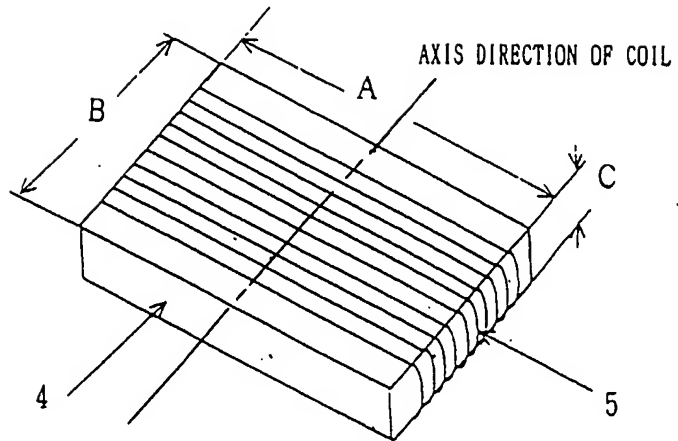


FIG. 6 B

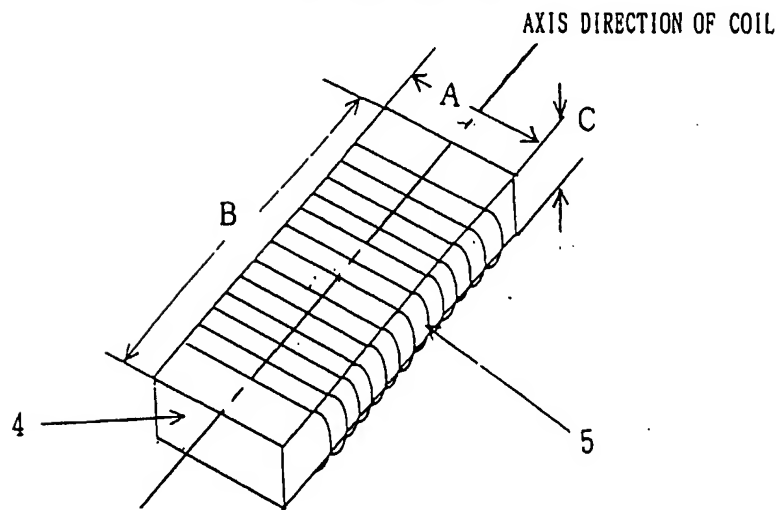


FIG. 7A

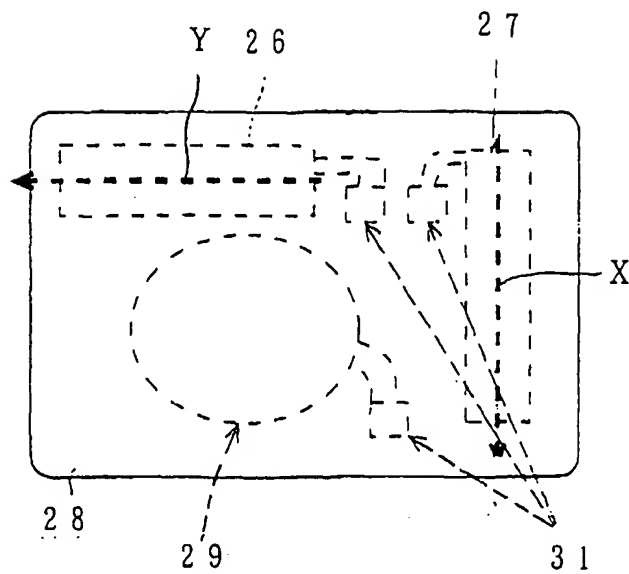
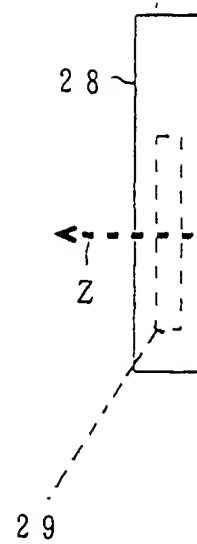


FIG. 7 B



- - - ➔ AXIS DIRECTION OF ANTENNA